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CLASSIFICATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

25X1A

follows:

198 25 12 25 11 4 SATE DISTR. 28 APR 1949

CD NO.

SUBJECT

Austrian Government Import Licenses Granted to USIA NO. OF PAGES

2

PLACE

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN

SUPPLEMENT TO

25X1X 1. During the period 1 January through 14 February, there have been only four Soviet-sponsored applications for import permits submitted to Abtellung 24 of the Austrian Ministry of Trade, and no applications have been received for

Date	Made By	Commodity	<u>Value</u>	Origin
10 Feb.	Nimpex, Vienna I, Laurenzerberg 3, representing USIA	57,000 liters of raw cherry juice (Weichselrohsaft)	\$179, 550	Hungary
14 Feb.	USIA	2,000 tons of seam- less pipe for	\$ 7 00,000	Bizonia

Zistersdorf

export permits. The import applications, all of which were approved, are as

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14 Seb. USIA

30 tons of raw \$13,878

Belgium rubber

14 Feb. USIA

140 meters of £ 26

England compressed air

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Soviet-sponsored import applications are of particular significance since it has been learned that when the applications are approved, USIA is accorded use of hard currency funds available in the Austrian National

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ARMY # AIR FBI

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The state of the s When asked to comment on the small number of Soviet applications for import permits approved during this period and the total absence of applications or approvals for export permits, the dearth of approvals might be attributed to a certain extent to disagreement within the Ministry of Trade as to which agency is henceforth to be assigned the responsibility of approving or disapproving these applications. called attention to the fact that not all Soviet-spensored export or import transactions necessarily clear through the Ministry of Trade, although Abteilung 24 of the Ministry has the official function of dealing with the Soviets in trade matters. Austrian firms may submit their applications for export or import permits directly to the Aussenhandels tolde (which has superfeded the Warenverkehrsbuero in this respect) for investigation and final decision. Thus, USIA firms and USIA middlemen might obtain permits without reference to the Trade Ministry. the Aussenhandelsstelle, as did the Warenverkenrsbuero, submits to the Allied Council a list of all import or export permits granted. a study of this list would show which USIA-coatrolled firms or USIA middlemen have received permits directly from the Aussenhandelsstelle

without reference to the Ministry of Trade.

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